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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 6 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At approximately 9.45 this morning, as it was attempting to enter the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in downtown Jerusalem, a car laden with explosives detonated on Jaffa Street. Two individuals, apparently the terrorists, were killed in the blast, and about two dozen passersby were injured. Had these bombs not been detonated prematurely, scores of innocent citizens could have lost their lives and hundreds could have been permanently maimed or wounded.

This vicious attack comes in the wake of two other Palestinian terrorist outrages perpetrated against Israelis in the last few weeks: the grenade attack against commuters in the Beersheva bus station on 19 October, injuring 64, and the car bombing of a Jewish school bus in the Gaza District on 29 October, killing one and injuring three. These attacks were perpetrated by individuals who came from territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

This attack came several days after Israeli and Palestinian negotiators returned from signing the Wye River Memorandum, and at the very moment that discussions on its approval were being conducted in the Israeli Cabinet.

Under the Memorandum, the Palestinian side pledged to do everything in its power to prevent such acts. The ongoing implementation of the Wye River Memorandum is conditioned upon the Palestinian fulfilment of their agreed-upon security responsibilities.

This most recent terrorist outrage, and the two that have preceded it, have added new urgency to the Palestinian obligations to unequivocally stress its "zero tolerance for terror and violence" and to immediately ensure "systematic and effective combat of terrorist organizations and their infrastructure" as stipulated in the Memorandum (Clause II:A).

98-34172 (E) 061198

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dore GOLD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative